

er according to the very best of judgment. It is now about the money involved. It is a large amount? Yes, seventy-five thousand dollars by the Trustee-in-Trust in behalf of the Church, beside a further amount paid by the administrators. It would be just a dollar apiece for 75,000 people. It is quite a sum; but then, did you ever see people giving a bone to a dog? And after you had done so, did you not think you had lost it, did you? We thought it better to take that course than to be tied up any longer with such mischievous doings; and we agreed to do so. And I would like to know whether you approve of this act or not? You who do, please signify it by raising up your right hands. [A loud voice was raised; and a unanimous vote declared.] Well, some have asked what we are going to do with these coming heirs. I think we will have to deal with them according to the will of the Church. Are you going to bring their case before the conference? No, I think not; there are other officers in the Church to attend to such things, and we say to you, go, and do your duty. We are very sorry that they should have placed themselves in that position; we are very sorry that a great many other people should, and we are very sorry that a great many of the evils referred to should exist in the world. But they do; and what shall we do about it? Go to work and cleanse the inside of the platter, and then we can go before our God in faith, and stand approved of, and rejoice in the fulness of the blessings of the gospel of peace. There are some other things I would like to touch upon, but as they have already expired, and as we will have a priesthood meeting next night in this tabernacle, to which young and the old of both sexes are invited, I will defer speaking here until then.

and the thousand evil influences that follow in their train. As for myself and my brethren here, I pray that the true spirit of our callings may rest down upon us, that as we older grow in our membership, we may receive more wisdom, so that when we teach, the knowledge from whence we draw our thoughts may be of such a stable character, as to convince the hearer of the truth that is in us, and that our lives may be a living embodiment of that truth. Our brother Elder George Batt has labored during a long and faithful mission in these islands, traveling hither and thither under varying and often very adverse circumstances to preach the gospel and warn the people, and has exercised supervision over the various branches with a wisdom such as has led us to look upon him with love and respect. My experience here has led me to see that it is no light task to hold together in unison the conflicting elements that are gathered into this church by the gospel net; it is a duty requiring gentle, steady firmness and great forbearance until the last shred of the wretched garment of sectarianism is ultimately thrown away. The weeding out of prejudice and sectarian ideas is as delicate an operation and as life giving in its effects as the removal of a cancer which would otherwise sap the very life of the afflicted victim.

Auckland is a lovely place and I cannot doubt but by patient labors in removing preconceived ideas in the minds of the people relative to "Mormonism" so-called, many honest inquirers will yet separate themselves from Babylonish captivity.

I am very glad to notify the arrival of Elders Bromley, Groesbeck and Ferris as missionaries from Utah, to labor amongst us; it was a most pleasing surprise, and we trust the result may be the adding of very many souls to the Church. These Elders, after having been presented and sustained in their various callings, are now located as follows: Elder Bromley, President of Mission at Auckland, to labor in city, suburbs and surrounding districts; Elder Groesbeck at Christchurch to labor in that city and surroundings, and Elder Ferris similarly situated at Napier. All of them are districts very large in extent with the popu-

lation much scattered. At present the following meetings are held in the Auckland branch: on Sunday at the Masonic Hall, Newton; sacrament service at 10.30; Sunday School at 2.30, and preaching the gospel at 6.30. We have also testimony meetings twice weekly, to accommodate the saints who live at long distances from each other. Besides this there have been many preachings of the Gospel in the adjacent villages on Sunday afternoons. The meetings generally have not been so fully attended as they might have been, but when the saints are thoroughly imbued with the responsibilities which rest upon them and learn to sink self in the pushing forth of the latter-day work like one man, so that we may have more united power to remove some of the prejudices of the outside public, then we may expect a more thorough appreciation of the blessings and ordinances proceeding from the preaching and acceptance of the gospel. I may also mention that we have inaugurated a Female Relief Society, who have, although in their infancy, begun to make themselves felt as a power to do good. Sister Lucey holds the office of president and Sisters Cox and Day as first and second counselors, and with the Lord's help they will prove a great blessing to all that come within the range of their influence. Several of the Saints have their thoughts turned Zionwards and are looking forward to an early opportunity of leaving these shores for the valleys in the tops of the mountains, and I sincerely trust that the Eternal Father will so far bless me as to open the way for myself and family to be numbered among the first of those who will start for "home."

I will now wish you good bye for the present, and with thankfulness in my heart that I can now write myself Latter-day Saint.

I subscribe myself your affectionate brother in the Church of Jesus Christ.

WILLIAM WALTER DAY,  
President of the Auckland Branch,  
New Zealand.

MANASSA, Col.,  
March 2d, 1881.

Editor Desert News:  
Our people here are moving along quietly, planing and preparing for

the future, as best they can. An agreement has been entered into to fence in our farming land, for the protection of our grain from the ravages of stock. It has been thought that the law-making power of this State will repeal the stock, or no fence law, and whether they will or not, it will be well to put a good and substantial fence around our contemplated crop, and not suffer ourselves to be annoyed as we were last year. Many times during the past year there were at night, often from five to perhaps 50 head of stock on our growing wheat, oats, etc. And this continued nearly, if not quite every night, till the grain was harvested, hauled in and stacked. The wonder is that we saved as much as we did. We aim to fence in, here at Manassa, 960 acres in one field, which is a section and a half, and hence two sides of the fence will each be one and a half miles in length, and the ends each a mile. At Ephraim they propose, I think, to enclose a section or 640 acres.

Old water ditches, which can be traced for miles, are a little east of Manassa. When, and by whom they were made, or what success in raising grain, etc., the people had who constructed them, I have not been informed. That a considerable number of years have elapsed since they were used for irrigating purposes, is apparent from the rabbit brush growing in and about them, for it seems to be as large and plentiful there as elsewhere.

Some of our people who went across the "Range" to work on the railroad, have returned. They say it is rather cold there as yet, and they prefer to wait for awhile at least till the winter breaks up and spring opens. It is also reported that the Indians are likely to be troublesome, as some depredations have already been committed by them, from reports. Work can soon be had here on a bridge across the Conejos River, at remunerative wages; and a few, I do not know how many, can be employed on a mill some of our brethren, are aiming to build. In fact, work has already commenced on it. This mill, when completed, will be of great benefit to the people of Manassa and Ephraim.

News from the south is anything but flattering. More rain has fallen

for the past year than the oldest inhabitants ever recollect seeing. The winter has been very cold for that climate; rain, sleet and snow every few days, and thousands of pounds of cotton ungathered up to the middle of February. The last news from Mississippi and Alabama, to relatives and friends here, is that they are having very high winds, blowing down timber, upsetting houses, etc.

Some are saying here, at least in affect: "My Lord delayeth His coming," as was said by some of old time; and they are beginning to smite their fellow servants by getting a spirit of opposition, and finding fault, etc. It is written judgment shall begin at the house of God, and this opposing element should beware, for while the judgments of God, in the form of rain, hail, snow, mildew and rot are being poured out upon the outside world, the best and most devout may look out.

The average temperature for the month of February has been, for sun rise, 16 4-21 degrees above zero. For the other seven days viz, from the 10th to the 16th, 9 1-7 below zero. At noon, the average was 41 2-11 degrees above zero.

More anon, H. P. DOTSON.

**Correspondence.**

AUCKLAND BRANCH,  
New Zealand.

For Desert News:

Having been requested by the President of the Mission to communicate with you respecting affairs in our far-off branch of the Church, I have taken to the task as far as I am able. Altogether we in this branch number some 60 souls, composed as follows: men 15, women 11, children 34; the adults striving and after the things of the kingdom; so hard that sometimes our zeal runs our discretion, and we are often reminded that we are scarcely more than over the threshold of the Kingdom, and little more than nominally acquainted with the first principles of our newly embraced religion. Indeed, now that we are inside the Kingdom, and not made with hands, were to stop and ponder over the ground-work "Faith," the first of these first principles, we should have been coming to our view such an amazing picture for study that each item would seem to furnish enough material for a life experience of mortal probation; but so eager are many of us to push headlong to the further end of the gallery of light into which we have been introduced and which are pendant so many of the great works of art of the master and of the Great Eternal Father, that we are prone to forget to sufficiently examine and impress upon our minds the various beauties of the first gem which presents itself to our view. The habit of taking things for granted because of their parent simplicity is a bad one, as the light we get from the examination of those things which at first sight appear to be easily understood, is often absolutely necessary to enable us to comprehend the more subtle combinations of advanced truths. So have I found it in my experience within this Church and would earnestly counsel all young saints to learn first to speak and teach the truths contained in the first four great principles of the Church before thinking of attempting to teach and preach of the higher order of truths which can be intelligible only to faithful and steadfast saints; in short commence with the alphabet or milk of the word and gradually develop the taste both in ourselves and others for the strong meat of the gospel pertaining to our eternal exaltation, everything in its proper order. Do this and avoid many an untoward experience; but proceed inversely and prepare to meet a spirit of contention, argumentation

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